

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were again rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure of the Gut patent. In response, independent Claims 1, 10, and 12 have been amended, in a manner supported by the description of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5, particularly on page 16, lines 1-17, and page 17, lines 24-28, and those claims are believed to be patentable over the Gut patent for the reasons set forth below.

As now claimed, the present invention relates to accessing a digital document in a network that allows peer-to-peer communication, such as the Internet, in which the ability to reach a document may be unstable. As set forth in the preamble portion of the Application (page 2, lines 12-16): *“access to the contents in a communication network of the station to station type still constitutes a significant difficulty since the latency in obtaining the data is no longer simply due to the time needed for recovering the data as in conventional client-server topology but also the time for searching for a server device having this data available”*. In a peer-to-peer network, there may be several potential servers that allow access to a document, but there is an uncertainty on which server, if any, is available at a given time. In this regard, in a server/client system or in a system wherein data is available locally, this problem does not exist because the time needed to locate a document content is not significant.

Referring now to the Gut patent, data is located either in the device cache (col. 6, lines 1-5) or in remote storage devices 22, 22', 40, 42 (col. 6, lines 19-29). As described in Gut, with respect to Fig. 1, the remote storage devices may be “directly addressable” (Col. 3, lines 37-39 and Col. 1, lines 48-53). Therefore, there is no uncertainty about the location and address

of a possible server of the data and thus no delay due to searching the data or the address of the data.

As a result of the amendments to the claims as set forth above, the features that distinguish the present invention from Gut have been stressed more clearly. Specifically, Gut discloses downloading by anticipation the components of a document, to regenerate the document and to store it in the cache memory. (see, col. 2, lines 27-28 and lines 36-41, col. 5, lines 44-50 and 59-61, step 70, fig. 4 and step 78, fig. 5). According to the present invention, however, if for anticipation purposes, a second data item corresponding to a document is missing in the local storage means, an address of the document data is searched and stored in this storage means. Thus, because the address is available locally, there is no need to download the second data item in the storage means. The access to the second data item is performed upon subsequent request to access the second data item, based on the locally stored address that has been searched.

In other words, as stated near the end of Applicants' description of exemplary embodiments, with regard to the drawings: *"Storage of the addresses by anticipation thus makes it possible to obtain (download) said document from the location whose address is immediately available locally, that is to say at the storage means 160 of the client device, without waiting for the time necessary for recovery of this address in the network."* (Page 17, lines 24-28)

For these reasons, it is believed that the claims as now presented are allowable over the cited Gut patent, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by

telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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